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IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing Web browser-based remote network appliance configuration in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

one or more network appliances interconnected within a bounded network domain defined by a common network address space; ~~and~~

a configuration client comprising an applet executing within a Web browser and configuring the network appliances, comprising:

a status module broadcasting a query message to the network appliances and processing a response message containing network settings, including a physical network address, received by the applet from at least one such network appliance responsive to the query message; and

a configuration module generating and sending a configuration packet using the physical network address for each at least one such network appliance sending a response message and requiring configuration;

a list of the network appliances maintained by the status module for each at least one such network appliance sending a response message and not requiring configuration;  
and

a completion module receiving a status message from each at least one such network appliance requiring configuration responsive to receipt of the configuration packet;

wherein when the status message indicates an unsuccessful configuration, further comprising resending the configuration packet to the at least one such network appliance.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim [3]1, wherein when the status message indicates a successful configuration, further comprising sending a kickstart message to each at least one such network appliance to initiate an autonomous management session.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim [3]1, wherein when the status message indicates an on-going configuration, further comprising waiting for completion of configuration by the at least one such network appliance.
7. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
  - an applet database storing a plurality of applets customized for execution within each such bounded network domain; and
  - an applet request module receiving the applet from the applet database and installing the applet into the Web browser prior to broadcasting the query message.
8. (Original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein the applet is received in a secure session.
9. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
  - a message queue storing instructions for the applet, comprising sending at least one of the query message and the configuration packet.
10. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
  - a packet generator storing into the configuration packet values comprising at least one of hostname, domain, internet protocol address, netmask, gateway, primary domain name server, and secondary domain name server.
11. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the bounded network domain is compliant with the TCP/IP and the configuration packet is compliant with the UDP.

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12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing Web browser-based remote network appliance configuration in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

broadcasting a query message from an applet executing within a Web browser to one or more network appliances interconnected within a bounded network domain defined by a common network address space;

processing a response message containing network settings, including a physical network address, received by the applet from at least one such network appliance responsive to the query message; ~~and~~

generating and sending a configuration packet using the physical network address for each at least one such network appliance sending a response message and requiring configuration;

updating a list of the network appliances for each at least one such network appliance sending a response message and not requiring configuration; and

receiving a status message from each at least one such network appliance requiring configuration responsive to receipt of the configuration packet;

wherein when the status message indicates an unsuccessful configuration, further comprising:

resending the configuration packet to the at least one such network appliance.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim [14]12, wherein when the status message indicates a successful configuration, further comprising:

sending a kickstart message to each at least one such network appliance to initiate an autonomous management session.

16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim [14]~~12~~, wherein the status message indicates an on-going configuration, further comprising:  
waiting for completion of configuration by the at least one such network appliance.
18. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
receiving the applet from an applet database storing a plurality of applets customized for execution within each such bounded network domain; and  
installing the applet into the Web browser prior to broadcasting the query message.
19. (Original) A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving the applet in a secure session.
20. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
sending at least one of the query message and the configuration packet from the applet responsive to instructions maintained in a message queue.
21. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
storing into the configuration packet values comprising at least one of hostname, domain, internet protocol address, netmask, gateway, primary domain name server, and secondary domain name server.
22. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the bounded network domain is compliant with the TCP/IP and the configuration packet is compliant with the UDP.
23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claims 12, ~~13, 14, 15, 16, 17~~, 18, 19, 20, 21, or 22.

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24. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely configuring a network appliance deployed within a distributed computing environment, comprising:

at least one network appliance sending a response message containing network settings responsive to a query message broadcast over a specified network domain within which the at least one network appliance operates;

a configuration client generating a configuration package for the at least one network appliance and containing centrally managed network settings customized for the at least one network appliance; and

a bootstrap module on the at least one network appliance installing the configuration package as part of an initialization bootstrap operation;

a library of applets for one or more Web browser-based configuration clients operating within the specified network domain;

a completion module sending a message comprising one of success, failure and unconfigured following configuration package installation at each such network appliance; and

a status daemon initializing a secure management session following successful configuration package installation on at least one such network appliance.

25. (Original) A system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

a centrally managed library of configurations containing network settings for each such network appliance operating with the specified network domain.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim [26]24, further comprising:

an applet server deploying one such applet from the library to each such configuration client using a secure session.

28. (Original) A system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

a standardized user interface exported by the configuration client and providing configuration controls for a heterogeneous set of the network appliances.

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29. (Original) A system according to Claim 24, further comprising:  
a package generator including at least one of a timestamp and a unique seed value  
in each such configuration package.
30. (Cancelled)
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Original) A system according to Claim 24, wherein at least one such network  
appliance performs one of electronic mail anti-virus scanning, content filtering, packet  
routing, and file, Web and print servicing.
33. (Original) A system according to Claim 24, wherein the distributed computing  
environment is TCP/IP-compliant.
34. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely configuring a network appliance  
deployed within a distributed computing environment, comprising:  
sending a response message containing network settings from at least one network  
appliance responsive to a query message broadcast over a specified network domain  
within which the at least one network appliance operates;  
generating a configuration package for the at least one network appliance and  
containing centrally managed network settings customized for the at least one network  
appliance; and  
installing the configuration package on the at least one network appliance as part  
of an initialization bootstrap operation;  
maintaining a library of applets for one or more Web browser-based configuration  
clients operating within the specified network domain;  
sending a message comprising one of success, failure and unconfigured following  
configuration package installation at each such network appliance; and

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initializing a secure management session following successful configuration package installation on at least one such network appliance.

35. (Original) A method according to Claim 34, further comprising:  
centrally managing a library of configurations containing network settings for each such network appliance operating with the specified network domain.
36. (Cancelled)
37. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim [36]34, further comprising:  
deploying one such applet from the library to each such configuration client using a secure session.
38. (Original) A method according to Claim 34, further comprising:  
exporting a standardized user interface providing configuration controls for a heterogeneous set of the network appliances.
39. (Original) A method according to Claim 34, further comprising:  
including at least one of a timestamp and a unique seed value in each such configuration package.
40. (Cancelled)
41. (Cancelled)
42. (Original) A method according to Claim 34, wherein at least one such network appliance performs one of electronic mail anti-virus scanning, content filtering, packet routing, and file, Web and print servicing.
43. (Original) A method according to Claim 34, wherein the distributed computing environment is TCP/IP-compliant.

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44. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claims 34, 35, ~~36~~, 37, 38, 39, ~~40~~, ~~41~~, ~~42~~, or 43.